

***FARM LABOR***MINNESOTA AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE

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Homepage: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/mn/>**NUMBER OF LAKE REGION HIRED WORKERS RISES 18% FROM JANUARY 2002**

**Lake Region:** There were 45,000 hired workers on Lake Region (Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin) farms the week of January 12-18, 2003, up by 7,000 from a year ago, according to the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service. Weather conditions during both the survey week and the previous week were cold and dry with little snow cover and below-average temperatures in Minnesota. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$10.54 per hour during the January 2003 survey week, up by 63 cents from \$9.91 in January 2002. Field workers received an average of \$10.51 per hour, a 29-cent increase from a year ago. Livestock workers earned \$9.44 per hour compared with \$8.26 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock Workers combined wage rate at \$9.65 per hour, was up by 71 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 31.7 for hired workers during the survey week compared with 33.5 hours a year ago.

**United States:** There were 884,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of January 12-18, 2003, down 1 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 724,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 160,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.32 per hour during the January 12-18, 2003 reference week, up 35 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.29 per hour, up 4 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$8.91 per hour compared with \$8.20 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.50 per hour, was up 27 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 37.8 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 38.5 hours a year ago.

**WORKERS ON FARMS, HOURS WORKED PER WEEK, AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS,  
LAKE REGION AND UNITED STATES, JANUARY 2003**

	Lake Region 1/		United States 2/	
	January 6-12 2002	January 12-18 2003	January 6-12 2002	January 12-18 2003
	1,000 Workers			
<b>Workers on Farms All Hired Workers</b>	38	45	707	724
	Hours Per Week			
<b>Hours Worked All Hired Workers</b>	33.5	31.7	38.5	37.8
	Dollars Per Hour			
<b>Workers By Work Type</b>				
Field	10.22	10.51	8.25	8.29
Livestock	8.26	9.44	8.20	8.91
Field & Livestock	8.94	9.65	8.23	8.50
<b>All Workers</b>	9.91	10.54	8.97	9.32

1/Lake Region = Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Excludes agricultural service workers. 2/Excludes Alaska.